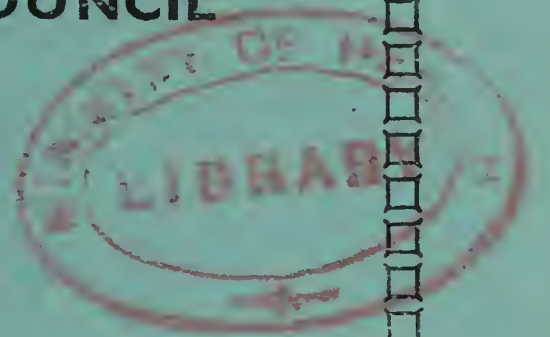


URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF ORMSKIRK.



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

THE YEAR - 1939.

JOHN YOUNG M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

With the Compliments of the
Medical Officer of Health.



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Annual Report for 1939.

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ORMSKIRK,

NOVEMBER, 1940.

To the Chairman and Members of the Ormskirk Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for 1939.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area—15,608 acres, mainly flat or undulating.

Population—The population, according to the 1931 Census, was 17,121, and the Registrar-General estimates that at the middle of the year the population was 18,720, and the average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates 19,140.

Number of Inhabited Houses.—At the end of 1939 the number of inhabited houses, according to the Rate Books, was 5,396.

The Rateable Value at the end of the year was £109,837, and the sum represented by a penny rate was £427.

Social Conditions.—The district is mainly inhabited by middle and working class people, with some very poor. Unemployment is unfortunately still prevalent. The number of names on the Register at the end of the year was 631 against 661 for previous year.

Chief Industries—A brass foundry, 2 breweries, 1 ironfoundry, 2 timber yards, 1 printing and bookbinding works, 1 flour mill, 1 oatmeal mill, 3 brickworks, 2 cake manufacturers, 1 wooden handle works, 1 neck-ware factory.

The main industry of the district is Agriculture.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following figures are supplied by the Registrar General :—

	TOTAL.	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	279	142	137
Illegitimate	12	4	8
Total	291	146	145

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 15·5

	TOTAL.	M.	F.
Still births	10	3	7

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—34·6.

	TOTAL.	M.	F.
Deaths	245	128	117

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—12·8

Deaths from puerperal causes—	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births.
Puerperal sepsis	nil	nil
Other puerperal causes	1	·3
Total	1	·3

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	57
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	53
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	166
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	32
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	nil

Details of the Deaths are as follows : -

<i>Causes of Death.</i>	M.	F.
Influenza	3	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	2
Other Tuberculosis	1	—
Cancer	13	19
Diabetes	2	—
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	10	7
Heart Disease	31	38
Circulatory Diseases	5	5
Bronchitis	4	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	3	8
Peptic Ulcer	3	—
Appendicitis	—	2
Other Puerperal Diseases	—	1
Ill defined or not known diseases ..	2	—
Polio Encephalitis	1	—
Aneurysm	1	—
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	—
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	—	1
Diphtheria	1	1
G.P.I. Tabes	1	—
Other Liver diseases	1	2
Other Digestive diseases	1	—
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	7	7
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.	9	5
Senility	10	5
Suicide	1	—
Other Violence	6	6
Other defined Diseases	8	4
Total	128	117

No deaths were due to Measles, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough or Puerperal Sepsis.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Medical Officer of Health—JOHN YOUNG, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Sanitary and Meat Inspector—NORMAN W. CHADWICK, A.R. San.I.
 (Certificated Meat Inspector).

Additional Sanitary and Meat Inspector—

ERNEST ALTY, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (Certificated Meat Inspector)

LABORATORY AND AMBULANCE FACILITIES, ETC.—There have not been any changes in Laboratory, Ambulance facilities, Nursing in the home, Treatment Centres or Hospitals, as all these services are working satisfactorily.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.—The new electrical pumps were installed in wells No. 1 and 2, Greetby Hill Pumping Station. On completion of the new bore holes in the No. 1 well, it was decided to tube the bore with steel tubes, prior to the installation of the centrifugal pump in order to prevent as far as possible sand gaining access to the bore hole. The question of providing new plant at Dark Lane Works had to be abandoned owing to the outbreak of war.

Chemical and bacteriological reports throughout the year have proved satisfactory.

The following new water mains were laid :—116 yards 4-inch main at Highfield Road.

A scheme has been prepared for laying a new 6-inch nominal diameter asbestos main from Hall Lane to Newburgh.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—No new works were carried out during the year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AT THE END OF 1939.

Number of middens, 743. Number of closets attached to these middens, 775.

Number of pail closets, 65. Number of dry ashpits (excluding middens), 147.

Number of fresh water closets, 4,725. Number of movable ashbins for refuse, 4,478.

Number of waste water closets, nil.

CONVERSIONS.

	During five years	
	During 1939.	1934—1938.
No. of privy closets—To fresh w.c.s	13	194
To waste w.c.s	0	0
To pails, etc.	0	0
No. of pail closets – To fresh w.c.s	0	9
To waste w.c.s	0	0
No. of waste w.c.s to fresh w.c.s	1	52
No. of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles	14	220

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

All household and shop refuse is removed by the Council's own carts and motor vehicles, and is disposed of by either tipping or incineration. It has not been found necessary to make any alterations in the present system, as this has proved satisfactory.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Number of Premises visited :	
Houses	372
Lodging Houses	2
Bakehouses	18
Factories and Workshops	85
Cowsheds and Dairies	35
Slaughter Houses, including Farms	60
Shops	37
Offices	36
Number of defects or nuisances discovered,	202.
Number abated,	172.
Number of notices served : Informal	202, Statutory 5.
No legal proceedings were taken.	

SHOPS.

During the year thirty-seven shops were inspected under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, and the reports on same forwarded to the County Council.

All with the exception of two were found to be satisfactory. In these two cases the sanitary conveniences were defective, but were subsequently put in order.

OFFICES.

Thirty-six offices were inspected under the provisions of Section 46 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and three notices were served where the sanitary conveniences were found to be inadequate. It was not found necessary to take any action with respect to ventilation.

CAMPING SITES.

There are no camping sites in the area.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Twelve smoke observations were made during the year, and four notices were served under Section 102 of the Public Health Act, 1936, where it was found there was contravention of the Bye-Laws relating to the period which black smoke may be emitted.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are two privately owned swimming baths in the district, but these are not open to the public.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Slight bug infestation was found in twelve houses in the district. The walls, after being stripped of paper, and all woodwork were thoroughly sprayed with an insecticide known as Vermicine.

All furniture belonging to tenants from Clearance Areas is fumigated with hydrogen cyanide gas before being removed to Council property.

SCHOOLS.

All the elementary schools with the exception of one, are old, but their sanitary condition is fairly good.

The water supply to all schools in the district is from the main, and is ample.

Schools are visited about twice every year, and on the outbreak of any infectious disease.

The attendance officers supply me with a weekly return, showing the number of children absent from school and the diseases from which they are suffering.

Both the head teachers and the school attendance officers are most helpful.

It was not found necessary to advise the closure of any school during the year.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

There has been very little change in the general standard of housing since last year. The genral standard is good, most of the very old property having been dealt with under the Housing Acts, 1930 36. The main defect is dampness.

The position with regard to overcrowding conditions in the area is very similar to last year except for the reception of about 3,400 children and 600 adults evacuated from Liverpool, which caused overcrowding in many houses.

No fresh housing schemes were commenced during the year.

(a) Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the year—

(a) Total, including numbers given separately		under (b)	118
(i)	By the Local Authority .....	.....	Nil
(ii)	By other Local Authorities .....	....	Nil
(iii)	By other bodies and persons .....	.....	118

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :		
(i) By the Local Authority		Nil
(ii) By other bodies or persons		Nil
1. <i>Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year—</i>		
(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	372
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	917
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	25
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	60
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation.....	269
2. <i>Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices—</i>		
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	249
3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year—</i>		
A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	95
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By owners	16
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :		
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	174

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	5
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.....	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY. All dairies, cowsheds and milkshops in the district were inspected during the year, and generally the premises were found to be in a satisfactory condition, with the exception of limewashing of the walls.

It was found necessary to serve sixteen notices asking for this work to be carried out.

At the request of the Lancashire County Council, eleven samples of milk were taken from schools in the district, and sent for examination for Tubercle Bacilli to the City Laboratory, Liverpool.

Of the eleven samples taken, one only proved to be positive, the remainder were satisfactory.

One bottling licence, three supplementary licences, and two dealers' licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

(b) INSPECTION OF MEAT.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle (exclud- ing cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	324	28	3	150	777
Number Inspected	324	28	3	150	777
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis—</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	27	Nil	Nil	15	24
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	8.3	Nil	Nil	10.6	3.4
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	18	9	Nil	Nil	67
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	6.1	35.7	Nil	Nil	8.6

DETAILS OF MEAT CONDEMNED DURING 1939.

Disease.	CATTLE.						SHEEP.		PIGS.	
	Carcases	Heads	Hearts	Lungs	Livers	Offals	Joints	Carcases	Heads	Joints
Tuberculosis	4	11	-	18	2	2	2	-	56	-
Abscesses	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	3	-
Angiomatosis	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Bruising	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cirrhosis	-	-	-	-	22	-	4	-	-	-
Cysts & Parasitic Diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	6
Dropsy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Fevered	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Heart Diseases	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Nephritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pleurisy	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	17
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29
Unsound	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1

The number of carcasses examined during the year was 1,282, and the weight of Tuberculous meat condemned was 1 ton, 9 cwts. 28 lbs., and other diseased or unsound meat was 7 cwts. 68 lbs.

(c) ADULTERATION.—The Acts and Regulations bearing on this subject are administered by the Lancashire County Police, and I am indebted to Superintendent Jackson for the following information :—

SAMPLES TAKEN DURING 1939.

Milk	45
Butter	2
Coffee	1
Sugar	1
Marmalade	1
Baking powder	3
Oatmeal	2
Epsom Salts	1
Honey	1
Pearl barley	1
Custard powder	1
Flour	1
Borax	1
Blanc Mange	1
Self-raising flour	1
Gravy salt	1
Castor oil	1
Boracic ointment	1
Tea	1
Pepper	1
Ground ginger	1
Egg substitute	1

Proceedings were instituted in one case of selling milk not of the nature, substance and quality required. The defendant was convicted and fined £2, and ordered to pay £2 2s. 7d. costs.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The year has been fairly normal with regard to infectious disease. There was an increase in the number of cases of both Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, but certainly nothing approaching an epidemic.

There were only two deaths from Diphtheria, both of which occurred in the Isolation Hospital.

Nine cases of Scarlet Fever and five cases of Diphtheria were admitted to the Hospital from outside areas.

Immunisation against Diphtheria is still provided free at the Isolation Hospital, and during the year fifteen persons availed themselves of this service.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Throat Swabs	....	....	....	....	192
Widal Tests ..	.....	.....	.....	..	15
Urine and fæces	..	.....	..	..	2

DISINFECTION.

Number of rooms disinfected	.....	.....	39
Number of articles disinfected	...		19,444
Number of times steam disinfectors was used			58

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR, 1939

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.												Total Deaths. (The figures in this column should agree with those supplied by the Registrar General).	Hospital.		
	Total Cases at all Ages.	YEARS.												Total Cases removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district	
		Under 1 year	1—2	3—4	5—10	15—20	20—35	45—55	65 & over							
Scarlet Fever	40	1	1	2	5	18	8	4	1					21		
Diphtheria (including membranous croup) . .	24		1	3	1	10	4	4	1				2	24	2	
Whooping Cough	1					1										
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenza)	21		1	1	1	1	2		3	2	7	3	11			
Puerperal Pyrexia	2								1	1				1		
Acute polio-encephalitis .	1		1													
Erysipelas	9						1		2	1	5					
Ophthalmia neonatorum .	2															
TOTALS	100	3	3	6	6	30	15	8	8	4	12	3	13	46	2	

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1939.

Age Periods.				NEW CASES				DEATHS			
				Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years.											
0—	...	...	...					
1—	...	...	...							1	
5—	...	...	..			1	1				
10—	...	...					1				
15—	...	...	...		1						
20—	...	...	.	1	1				1		
25—	...	...	..	3				1	1		
35—	...	...	.	1	1						
45—	...	...		2				2			
55—	...	...							
65 and upwards	...		.	1				1			
Totals	...		.	8	3	1	2	4	2	1	
				11		3		6		1	

The services of the County Tuberculosis Officer are fully used and appreciated. All T.B. cases were notified before death took place and generally notification is prompt.

THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Number of Inspections.

Factories with mechanical power	72	Written Notices nil.
Factories without mechanical power	98	Written Notices nil.

Defects Found.

Want of cleanliness, 25. Remedied, 25.
 Defective sanitary accommodation, 4. Remedied, 4.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN YOUNG, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

